GOOD LUCK
WITH YOUR
PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY!

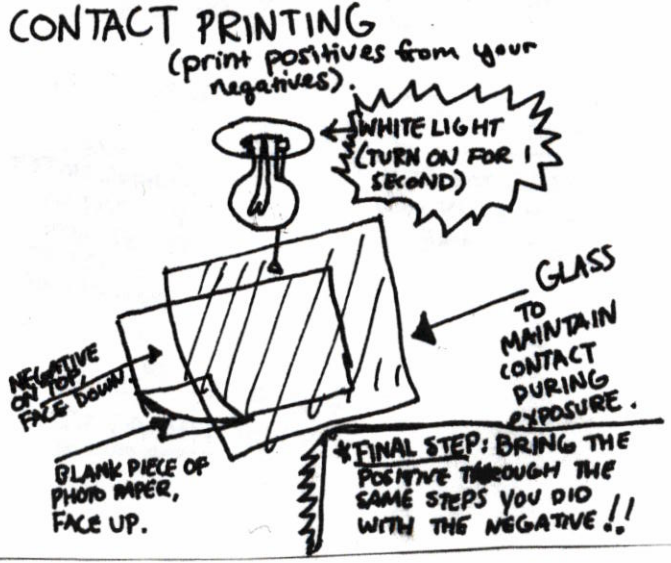
For more information on this, and other zines, check out http://www.redcore.org

!!! THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY

INTRO

I was fascinated with pinhole photography since I first heard about the concept that you can literally make your own camera, and develop your own photographs. So for about a month, I read through every zine, book, pamphlet, and website I could find, devoted to pinhole photography. The reason I had to read through so many, was to grasp the entire procedure of pinhole. Some books had wonderful pictures, but hardly any explanations, while others had just the opposite. So I decided to create this little zine to help first-timers with diy photography. I still really don't understand what an aperture is, but then again, most people don't. This is a guide for people who have [almost] no clue what they're doing when it comes to photography. If you have any questions, whatsoever, simply email me at distro@redcore.org .

ALMOST THERE!...



THREE MAIN STEPS. TO PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY

1. BUILD A CAMERA
2. TAKE PICTURES
3. DEVELOP YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS.

BUILD A CAMERA

TRAY 3

FIX

5-10 MINUTES

TONGS FOR STOP BATH & FIX CAN BE THE SAME.

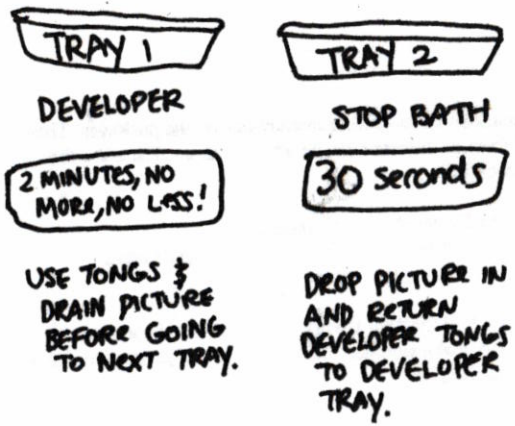
TRAY 4

WASH (PLAIN H_2O)

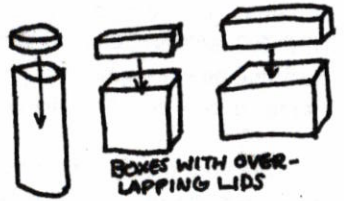
PLACE UNDER RUNNING WATER. THIS TRAY CAN BE USED UNTIL YOU GET TO RUNNING WATER.

NOW YOU'LL HAVE A LOVELY NEGATIVE

*UNDER SAFE-LIGHT/DARKNESS



You can create a camera out of almost any light-tight container. Oat-meal containers work especially well, but cereal boxes are horrible to work with.



Materials:

- ☐ Electrical tape
- ☐ Light-tight box
- ☐ aluminum
- ☐ #10 sewing needle
- ☐ Ilford RC multi-grade photo paper (for the best prices, check ebay.com)
- ☐ FLAT black spray paint
- ☐ cardboard
- ☐ white glue

Basically, photographs are simply when light hits light-sensitive film (or photo paper), and negatives are produced. ILFORD RC multi-grade photo paper is good to use, and can be found on ebay.com for a great price. Get a size like 5x7, which is easy enough to handle.

Make sure your box is big enough for your photo paper! It's good to make sure your box has an overlapping lid, so no light travels in. First you'll have to spray paint the inside of your box with FLAT black spray paint. Don't use glossy spray paint, otherwise, light will bounce around in the box. You'll need to cut out a square in the to-be front of your box. 2 inches by 2 inches is good enough, give or take an inch.

The developing chemicals all have clear instructions on the packages. They come in powdered form, and water must be added to them. These are the purposes of the chemicals:

DEVELOPER- to actually develop the pictures.
STOP BATH- the acid will stop the developer from doing its stuff.
FIX- will remove the "silver" in the paper.

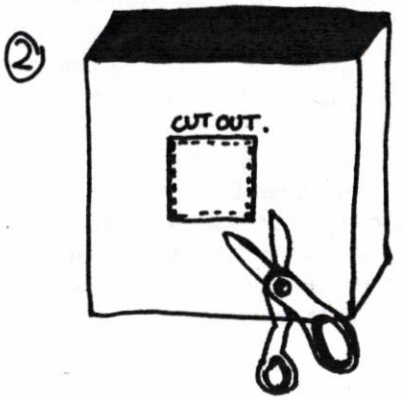
CAREFUL WHEN DEVELOPING! Do not let one chemical contaminate another chemical! Also, make sure your tongs are nice and clean, and one is used for each separate chemical.

You'll need a light-proof room or area to develop your pictures. Try a walk-in closet, or bathroom. You'll do all your work in this room. To make a bathroom light-proof, make sure the adjacent room is dark as well. Get black garbage bags to seal up the seams of the doorways.

Also, you'll have to get a safelight. Safelights can be bought at any photo-supply store. A cheap alternative is to buy a tiny 7 ½ or 15 watt red bulb.

To develop your photos, you'll need some **general supplies.** Most of these can be found at your local photo supply store or on ebay.com.

- ❑ 3 Tongs
- ❑ 4 "trays" (developing trays)
- ❑ Developer (Kodak Dektol)
- ❑ Stop Bath (Kodak 28% Acetic Acid)
- ❑ Fix (Kodak Fix)

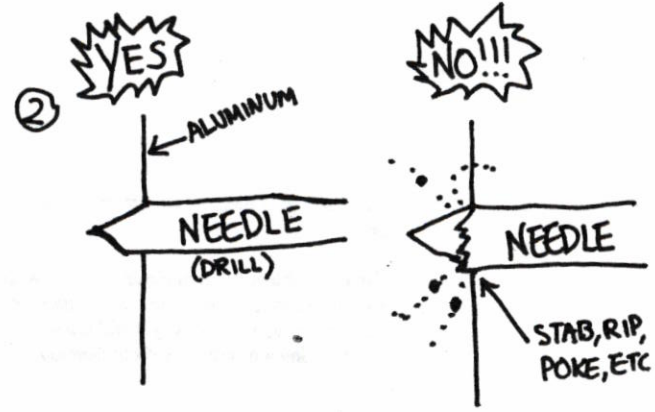


You'll need a #10 sewing needle for this next part. Sewing needles come in different sizes, and #10 seems to work the best. Stick the end of the needle (with the eye) into the eraser part of a pencil. The pencil will work as a good "grip" on your needle. Making a good hole is extremely important when building your camera. Don't just stab, poke, or prod your needle into your piece of aluminum. (Aluminum can be obtained from the bottom of a pie pan, or brass shim stock [sold at hardware stores] can be used). *Carefully* **drill** your needle into the aluminum. If the hole is not round, your pictures will not be sharp. To make sure you have a perfectly round hole, you can even sand down the aluminum with a No. 0000 sandpaper after drilling the hole. Then, turn the aluminum over, and drill the hole again from the other side.

DEVELOP PHOTOS


Darkroom
Please DO NOT Enter

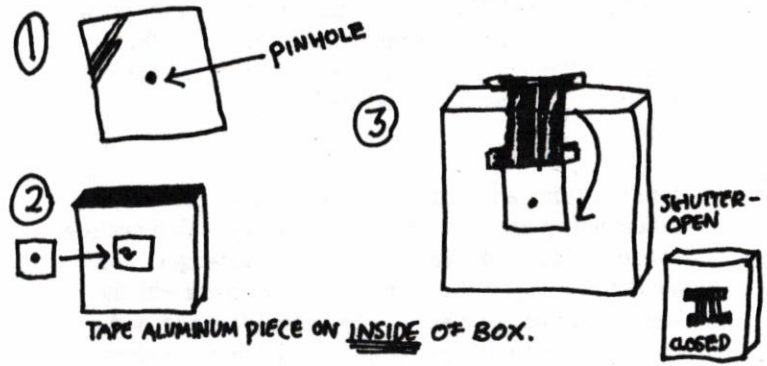

①
#10


②
YES
ALUMINUM
NEEDLE
(DRILL)
NO!!!
NEEDLE
STAB, RIP,
POKE, ETC

Now take your piece of aluminum and tape it to the hole you made in your box.

Create a "shutter" out of electrical tape. A shutter, in this case, is a flap of electrical tape that will cover up the pinhole. When you wish to take a picture, lift up the flap. Light will travel in, exposing the photo paper (film) and creating a negative ready to develop.

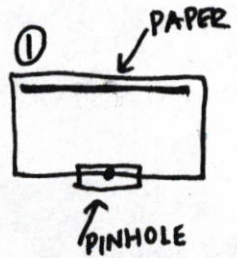
There are some really neat-o pinhole techniques. Try walking into your picture. You will appear ghost-like! Try making a camera with more than one hole! Experiment by taking pictures of things very, very close, or even wide-angled panoramic views! (Cylindrical Oat-meal containers give allow for super-wide angles)


1
PINHOLE
2
3
SHUTTER-
OPEN
CLOSED
TAPE ALUMINUM PIECE ON INSIDE OF BOX.

TAKE PICTURES

There you go! You now have your very own pinhole camera. ****IMPORTANT**** LOAD YOUR PHOTO PAPER IN TOTAL DARKNESS! You can tape the back of the photo paper to the side **opposite** the pinhole. Make sure the *"emulsion"* (the light-sensitive side) is facing the pinhole. Generally, the paper will bend itself away from the *emulsion.*

Here's the fun part, taking pictures. The possibilities are endless with pinhole cameras. The best way to find out how long to leave the "shutter" (flap) open, is to wing it. 1 ½ minutes will be just about right. But experiment with the time. Sometimes, pictures will be underdeveloped, and sometimes, they will be overdeveloped. Many variables contribute to the shutter time, so experiment, experiment, experiment.



*LOAD PHOTO PAPER IN TOTAL DARKNESS! (IN A CLOSET, OR BATHROOM), MAKE SURE TO COVER THE DOOR CRACKS WITH BLACK GARBAGE BAGS TO MAKE THE ROOM LIGHT-PROOF!